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TC 1700

Application No. 09/595,769
Amendment Dated 1/15/04
Reply to Office Action of 9/16/03
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Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A method for making a molded article, wherein said article
2 includes a substantially vertical peripheral wall portion and a transverse outer edge portion,
3 comprising:
- 4 (a) heating a sheet of plastic material having a mold side and an exposed side to a first
5 temperature, said first temperature being consistent with forming said sheet
6 of plastic material in a thermoforming process;
- 7 (b) placing said mold side of said sheet of plastic material over a mold, said mold having
8 a first surface including a steel rule for forming said substantially vertical
9 peripheral wall portion, ~~and further having~~ a second surface substantially
10 perpendicular to said first surface, and a steel rule placed along said second
11 surface at a predetermined distance from said first surface for forming said
12 outer edge portion;
- 13 (c) applying a vacuum to said mold or compressed gas to said exposed side of said sheet
14 of plastic material such that air pressure on said mold side is less than the air
15 pressure on said exposed side;

- 16 (d) forming a ridge over said steel rule along at least a part of said outer edge portion,
17 said ridge being of a substantially uniform height;
- 18 (e) cooling said sheet of plastic material to a second temperature, said second
19 temperature being consistent with said sheet of plastic material retaining its
20 molded shape;
- 21 (f) releasing said vacuum from said mold or said compressed gas from said exposed
22 side;
- 23 (g) removing said sheet of plastic material from said mold; and
- 24 (h) after removing said sheet of plastic material from said mold, cutting said sheet of
25 plastic material along said ridge to release said article from said sheet.

1 2. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said steel
2 rule encompasses the entire periphery of the mold and step (d) further includes forming said ridge
3 about the entirety of said outer edge portion at a substantially coequal distance from said wall
4 portion.

3. (Canceled)

1 4. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein there is provided after step
2 (h) a channel edge of a substantially uniform width about the periphery of said article.



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5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Amended) A method for making a molded article, wherein said article includes an outer edge portion, comprising:

- (a) molding an article having an outer edge portion from a sheet of plastic material in a mold having a steel rule encompassing the periphery of said mold, said outer edge portion having a ridge along at least a part of said outer edge portion, said ridge being formed over said steel rule and said ridge being of a substantially uniform height;

8 (b) removing said article from said mold; and

9 (c) after removing said article from said mold, cutting said article along said ridge to
10 release said article from said sheet of plastic material such that said ridge
11 defines the outer edge of said article.

1 12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein step (a) further includes
2 molding said ridge about the entirety of said outer edge portion.

13. (Canceled)

1 14. (Currently Amended) A method for making a molded article from a sheet of
2 thermoforming plastic, wherein said article includes a continuous outer edge portion, comprising:

3 (a) heating a sheet of plastic material having a mold side and an exposed side to a first
4 temperature, said first temperature being consistent with forming said sheet of
5 thermoforming plastic in a thermoforming process;

6 (b) placing said mold side of said sheet of thermoforming plastic over a mold, said mold
7 having a steel rule of substantially uniform height positioned about the periphery of
8 said mold;

- 9 (c) applying a vacuum to said mold or compressed gas to said exposed side of said sheet
10 of thermoforming plastic such that air pressure on said mold side is less than the air
11 pressure on said exposed side;
- 12 (d) forming a ridge over said steel rule along the entirety of said outer edge portion such
13 that said thermoforming plastic is thinner than the original thickness of the sheet of
14 thermoforming plastic along said ridge to facilitate a trimming operation;
- 15 (e) cooling said sheet of plastic material to a second temperature, said second
16 temperature being consistent with said sheet of ~~thermoforming~~ thermoforming plastic
17 retaining its molded shape;
- 18 (f) releasing said vacuum from said mold or said compressed gas from said exposed
19 side;
- 20 (g) removing said ~~sheet of~~ sheet of thermoforming plastic from said mold; and
- 21 (h) trimming said sheet of thermoforming plastic along said ridge where said
22 thermoforming plastic is thinner to release said article from said sheet.